

Verna L. Smith

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September 25, 1999

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Mr. William E. Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BUREAU OF THE SECRETARY

SUBJECT: Licenses For Low Frequency FM Stations

Dear Mr. Kennard:

As you know, currently there are 168 owned African-American owned radio stations in this country, thirty-two fewer than five years ago. For this reason, it is urgent and critical that more licenses be awarded to persons in the minority community.

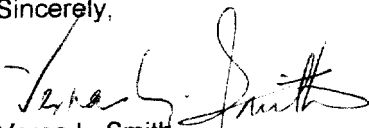
A Black woman with a background in Broadcast/Journalism and one who understands the value, importance and power of the media as an organ of information, I am quite concerned about this situation. I know that since your tenure began at the FCC you have been voicing your concerns about Minority Presence In The Media. Consequently, I am writing to learn whether or not what I have heard in my community is true, that an attempt is being made by the FCC *to issue licenses for low frequency FM stations.*

If there is some truth in this rumor, I would appreciate it if at the appropriate time some information could be sent to me so that I can inform other interested parties. Why? To take advantage of this opportunity several of us must come together to develop a financial package.

I am also concerned about the small percentage of Advertising Dollars that returns to our community and would appreciate some information on what steps are being taken to correct this inequity.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,


Verna L. Smith

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